

Application #09/467,721
Submitted December 11, 2006
Reply to Office Action of December 5, 2006

I. AMENDED LIST OF CLAIMS

3. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (cancelled)
2. (cancelled)
3. (cancelled)
4. (cancelled)
5. (cancelled)
6. (cancelled)
7. (cancelled)
8. (cancelled)
9. (cancelled)
10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) A machine for compressing of a plurality of video frames which make up a video signal, comprising:

- (a) a video digitizer configured to digitize a frame from said video frames;
- (b) a video memory which is able to receive a plurality of pixels from said video digitizer;
- (c) an encoding circuit for counting repeated instances of a pixel value comprising a number of pixel bits sub-sampled from each pixel when scanning said plurality of pixels and outputting a series of encoded data comprising a combined run-length field and a data field,

wherein the data field of each encoded data element comprises a number in the range from zero to the maximum value of said number of sub-sampled bits, and

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wherein the run-length data field of each encoded data element comprises the repeat count of the value in said data field;

(d) a memory which is able to store said encoded data;

(e) an input/output device.

12. (previously presented) The machine of claim 11 wherein said encoding circuit variably selects one of a set of 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 15, 16, and 24, as the number of pixel bits sub-sampled from each pixel
wherein the number of pixel bits sub-sampled is less than the number of bits of the pixel being sub-sampled.
13. (original) The machine of claim 12 wherein said pixel value is extracted from the most significant bits of each color component
14. (original) The machine of claim 11 wherein said input/output device is a storage medium.
15. (original) The machine of claim 11 wherein said input/output device is a communications transmission channel.
16. (cancelled)
17. (cancelled)
18. (cancelled)
19. (cancelled)
20. (cancelled)
21. (cancelled)
22. (cancelled)
23. (cancelled)
24. (cancelled)
25. (cancelled)
26. (previously presented) The machine of claim 11 wherein said encoding circuit sub-samples nine pixel bits from each pixel, and

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wherein the number of pixel bits sub-sampled is less than the number of bits of the pixel being sub-sampled.

27. (previously presented) The machine of claim 26 wherein the nine sub-sampled pixel bits comprises three most significant bits from each color component.

~~27.~~ 28. (currently amended) The machine of claim 26 wherein run-length ~~data~~ field comprises seven bits.

~~28.~~ 29. (previously presented) The machine of claim 11 wherein said encoding circuit sub-samples five pixel bits from each pixel, and wherein the number of pixel bits sub-sampled is less than the number of bits of the pixel being sub-sampled.

~~29.~~ 30. (currently amended) The machine of claim ~~28~~ 29 wherein the five sub-sampled pixel bits comprises five bits from one color component.

~~30~~ 31. (currently amended) The machine of claim ~~28~~ 29 wherein run-length ~~data~~ field comprises three bits.

~~31.~~ 32. (previously presented) A system comprising:

- a) the compressing machine of claim 11; and
- b) a decompressing machine for decompressing said series of encoded data that

represents said video signal, comprising:

- i) a second input/output device for reading said series of encoded data,
- ii) a decoding circuit for decoding the encoded data and outputting a stream of pixel values, and
- iii) a second memory for storing a reconstituted image comprising said stream of pixel values for as frames of a video sequence.

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~~32,~~ 33. (previously presented) A system comprising:

- c) the compressing machine of claim 15; and
- d) a decompressing machine for decompressing said series of encoded data that represents said video signal, comprising:
 - i) a second input/output device for reading said series of encoded data from said communications channel,
 - ii) a decoding circuit for decoding the encoded data and outputting a stream of pixel values, and
 - iii) a second memory for storing a reconstituted image comprising said stream of pixel values for as frames of a video sequence.

~~33,~~ 34. (previously presented) The system of claim 26 wherein the decompressing machine further comprises a display for displaying each frame of the video sequence, and wherein each frame is are enlarged by stretching prior to displaying on the display.

~~34,~~ 35. (currently amended) The system of claim 33 wherein the number of sub-sampled bits and the number of bits in the run-length data field are dynamically selected by a user viewing the video sequence at the decompressing machine.

~~35,~~ 36. (previously presented) The machine of claim 11 wherein said encoding circuit further encrypts the pixel value prior to outputting the pixel value to the data field of the series of encoded data.

~~36,~~ 37. (previously presented) The machine of claim 11 wherein said encoding circuit further compresses the stored encoded data with a lossless technique known in the art prior to providing the encoded data to the input/output device.

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~~37.~~ 38. (currently amended) The machine of claim 11 wherein each digitized frame has a width less than or equal to 320 pixels and a height less than or lessequal to 240 pixels.

~~38.~~ 39. (previously presented) A storage medium in which the encoded data as claimed in claim 11 is stored.

~~39.~~ 40. (currently amended) A machine for compressing of a plurality of video frames which make up a video signal, comprising:

- a) a digital video means for providing a plurality of digital pixel values for each frame from said video frames;
- b) a first memory means for receiving the plurality of pixels from said digital video means;
- c) an encoding means for counting repeated instances of a pixel value comprising a number of pixel bits sub-sampled from each pixel when scanning said plurality of pixels and outputting a series of encoded data comprising a combined run-length field and a data field,

wherein the data field of each encoded data element comprises a number in the range from zero to the maximum value of said number of sub-sampled bits, and

wherein the run-length data field of each encoded data element comprises the repeat count of the value in said data field;

- d) a second memory means for storing said encoded data;
- e) an input/output means for outputting said stored encoded data.